

(c) if so, the steps being taken for their improvement;

(d) whether LPT relay centre has been sanctioned for Rath town in Hamirpur district; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) 2 Very Low Power TV transmitters (VLPTs), one each at Ashapuri and Nehri, have been sanctioned for further expansion of Doordarshan network in Himachal Pradesh during the last four months.

(b) and (c) All the existing TV transmitters in Himachal Pradesh, except the VLPT at Jahalma, are reported to be functioning satisfactorily. The repair work in respect of the VLPT, Jahalma is presently held up due to road blockage and snowfall.

(d) and (e) A Low Power TV transmitter (LPT) is already under implementation at Rath in Hamirpur district of Uttar Pradesh.

Barren Land Development Programme in Maharashtra

280. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the projects approved under Barren Land Development Programme in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) the details of projects pending for approval with the Union Government and the reasons for their pendency;

(c) the time by which sanction is likely to be accorded in regard there to ;

(d) the number of projects getting finance from foreign agencies under Barren Land Development Programme in the State ;

(e) the details of the projects under implementation in the state at present; and

(f) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPY YERRANNAIDU) : (a) There is no Barren Land Development Programme in the Department of Wastelands Development, Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment. However, the Department is implementing an Integrated Wastelands Development project scheme in Maharashtra State. Two projects under IWDP scheme have been sanctioned for Nasik and Ahmednagar districts. The IWDP in Nasik district was

sanctioned in 1992-93 for a period of 4 years at a total cost of Rs.156.73 lakhs for development of 1700 ha. of wastelands. The IWDP in Ahmednagar district was sanctioned in 1994-95 for a period of 3 years at a total cost of 42.03 lakhs for development of 531 ha. of wastelands. The IWDP in Nasik district has been completed and IWDP in Ahmednagar districts is likely to be completed during 1997-98. No such project has been approved under Integrated Wasteland Development project Scheme during the last three years in the State except in Ahmednagar district.

(b) and (c) No Integrated Wastelands Development Project proposal from the state of Maharashtra is pending in the Department for sanction.

(d) to (f) There is no such project funded by foreign agencies is under implementation in the state .

Privatisation of AI / IA

281. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH : SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal of Privatisation of Air India and Indian Airlines is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) to (c) Air India Limited figures in the list of 40 Public sector Enterprises (PSEs) referred by the Government to the Disinvestment Commission for drawing up a comprehensive and long term disinvestment programme for these PSEs.

At present , there is no proposal to disinvest the equity capital in Indian Airlines.

[English]

Provision of Finance to Film Industry

282. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether recent incidents in Mumbai have confirmed a nexus between the film industry and the underworld;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;